

March 4, 1953

Dr. A. Bernstein
Public Health Laboratory Service
Municipal Buildings
143, Regent Road
Salford 5, England

Dear Dr. Bernstein:

Yours of the 28th just received. Spicer had mentioned your name, and I was pleased to hear from you. I would indeed be greatly interested to receive applications from mature prospective students, who already have some background in bacteriology or genetics, and would be interested to write a dissertation in bacterial genetics. Dr. Spicer will doubtless be able to tell you, at length, about our research program if he has not done so already.

Am I correct in understanding that you already hold a medical qualification? I regret that as I had not made special provision for such a contingency, I cannot be sure of securing more than the minimum stipend for the holder of this appointment, about \$120 per month, less statutory tuition fees of about \$200 per annum. Barring unlikely contingencies, it should be possible to arrange to augment this stipend to a level more commensurate with your formal qualifications.

The appointment is called a "half-time research assistantship". Its tenant is expected to carry a normal full ~~academic~~ program leading to the advanced degree. In this case, its obligations are simply to carry on research, appropriate to the facilities and objectives of our group, which will be incorporated into the dissertation. Probably, the area of greatest mutual interest would involve some aspects of genetic transduction in *Salmonella* or recombination in *E. coli*, but this is to be decided later.

The stated residence requirements for the Ph. D. at Wisconsin are three years of graduate study, of which three semesters must be on this campus. I anticipate that the M.B. would be accepted as at least the equivalent of one year of graduate work, but your qualifications will have to be reviewed after you have been in residence one semester. My personal opinion is that you could complete the formal requirements within two years, especially if, as I believe, you could actively start work on your thesis at once. The most expedient course would doubtless be a major in this department, and a minor in Medical Microbiology. However, the reverse would be

possible despite your doing your research here. This decision can be deferred.

I assume the most appropriate starting time would be at the start of the 1953-54 academic year, about September 15, 1953.

In this letter, in order to save time, I adopted many premises which may not be correct. Our administrative procedures at Wisconsin are much less rigid than at many institutions, and different arrangements could be devised for different needs. Please do not hesitate to present any questions that I may have failed to answer.

In order to hold this appointment, you will probably have to secure a regular immigrant's visa. As the quota from the United Kingdom is never filled, you should have no difficulty on that score. However, you will probably be well advised to initiate inquiry of the nearest U.S. Consulate as soon as you have made up your mind, if it is to apply.

You will understand that I have other applications in hand. An early response indicating the extent of your interest in the position, however qualified, will be appreciated. Please return the enclosed application form. Despite printed instructions, all documents should be addressed directly to me.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Associate Professor of Genetics